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RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF
CASTLE WARD

Annual Reports

OF

THE MEDICAL OFFICER

OF HEALTH

AND

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

AND

CLEANSING SUPERINTENDENT

For 1955

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CASTLE WARD

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR
and CLEANSING SUPERINTENDENT

1955

OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health - MADGE HOPPER, M.B., B.S., B.HY., D.P.H.

Sanitary Housing Meat	}	Chief Inspector - E. W. STRACHAN, M.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A.
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Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1955

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for 1955.

The first matter calling for comment is the increased population of the rural district according to the Registrar General's mid-year estimate to that of 16,130 in 1955. In the last two years the population of the district has increased by 1,230, with a corresponding slight increase in the total number of births and deaths.

The increase of population was mainly in the new houses built on the Brunton Park and Darras Hall Estates.

Since January 1st, 1953, when the Registrar General altered the method of assigning deaths to include all deaths in Hospitals and Institutions in the district, I have been careful to segregate these deaths from those of the residents of the district so that a truer picture of the causes of deaths of residents can be given.

The Stannington group of three Hospitals constitute an important section of the population. Cases are admitted from all parts of the Northern Region. The Thomas Taylor Homes at Stannington admit elderly persons from the County, many of whom spend their last years of life there. The Ponteland Hospital admits cases from the surrounding districts and from Newcastle upon Tyne. These cases are mainly elderly patients.

During the last few years, a closer liaison between the Medical Superintendents of the Hospitals and the Medical Officer of Health has become evident, to the mutual benefit of the two services especially when a threatenend outbreak occurs.

As far as the work of the Health Department was concerned, the most outstanding event was the outbreak of Sonne Dysentery during the second quarter of the year. The detailed work involved in investigating and seeing to the clearing of 135 notified cases and positive excretors taxed the resources of the Department and for three months other less urgent work had to be laid aside.

I take this opportunity of expressing appreciation of the devoted work of the members of the Health Department Staff, particularly during this period.

Very unfortunately, the two cases of Acute Poliomyelitis which occurred during the year were of a severe type and both were fatal. This is a matter of regret but there is now hope that gradually in the future an immunity will be built up by the new vaccination against the disease which commenced in recent months.

Detailed inspection of sub-standard houses has gone on steadily and the position in the rural district is now a happy one and, I consider, compares very favourably with other similar districts.

Since December 1950, action has been taken against 366 sub-standard houses placed in Category V and at the end of the year, fifty-eight only remained to be dealt with. Almost half the total number of sub-standard houses have had action taken against them in the same period and at the end of the year, 177 remained to be dealt with.

The continued progress of the laying of water mains, especially in the more remote and scattered parts of the district, has been a great boon to the inhabitants and facilitates the bringing up to standard of houses without water carriage, baths and hot water and greatly increases the amenities of the district.

In conclusion, may I express my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for the active interest they have taken in the work of my Department and for their continued encouragement in my work, to all the Staff of the Health Department and in particular to Mr. Strachan, the Chief Sanitary Inspector, who daily carries a load of varied responsibilities in public health matters and to the Clerk and other Officers of the Council for their sustained co-operation and help.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

M. HOPPER,

Medical Officer of Health

I—VITAL STATISTICS

POPULATION

The Registrar General's estimated mid-year population was 16,130, an increase of 710 on that of 1954 and an increase of 1,230 during the last two years.

BIRTHS

The total number of births registered during the year was 244. (127 male and 117 female) compared with a total of 221 the preceeding year. The number of illegitimate births declined from nine in 1954 to a total of four.

The birth rate (corrected) for the rural district in 1955 was 16.4, that for the country generally was 15.0 per 1,000 population.

Three still births were registered in 1955 as in the previous year, a welcome decrease to the total of six registered in 1953.

The still birth rate for 1955 was 12.2 per 1,000 live and still births and that for England and Wales was 23.1.

DEATHS

The number of deaths recorded by the Registrar General was 342, consisting of 169 males and 173 females.

When the number of deaths of residents of Hospitals and Homes situated in the rural district, namely 135, is excluded, the total number of deaths of residents was 207.

The total death rate (corrected for age and sex distribution) for the district in 1955 was 17.89 compared with 11.7 per 1,000 population for the country generally.

The death rate of residents (uncorrected) was 12.7 per 1,000 population in 1955 and 9.5 (uncorrected) in 1954.

INFANT MORTALITY

Seven deaths of infants under one year of age were registered in 1955 compared with six, in 1954 and ten in 1953.

The infant mortality rate for the district was 28.6 per 1,000 live births, slightly higher than that for the country generally, which was 24.9. The rate for the rural district was 27.1 per 1,000 live births in 1954.

Four of the infant deaths were neo-natal (*i.e.* occurred during the first month of life), two were due to prematurity and two to congenital defects. In 1954, there were three neo-natal deaths, all due to prematurity.

Of the three deaths of infants later during the first year of life in 1955, two had congenital defects as a primary cause and one was due to broncho-pneumonia.

The newer methods of treatment of infection, the increasing range of antibiotics and the sulphonamide drugs, together with meticulous infant care, have almost wiped out infection as a cause of infant deaths, but the complexities of the causes of congenital defects and prematurity remain.

MATERNAL MORTALITY

No death from maternal causes was registered in 1955 as in the previous four years. The maternal mortality rate for England and Wales was 0.64 per 1,000 live and still births.

INDIVIDUAL CAUSES OF DEATH

In 1955, the total number of deaths classified as due to "Heart and Circulatory diseases" was 125, seventy-nine of these being of residents and forty-six of residents in Hospitals or Institutions in the district. There is a total decrease of thirty deaths from these causes on the previous year, including nineteen of residents.

Deaths classified as due to "Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System" increased from eighty-one in 1954 to ninety in 1955; those of residents from this cause from thirteen, in 1954, to thirty-five in 1955.

The number of deaths classified as due to "Malignant Neoplasm" rose sharply to a total of forty-eight from a total of thirty-four the previous year. There was an increase of seventeen in deaths of residents from this cause and a decrease of three in the Institutional deaths.

Deaths classified as due to "Malignant Neoplasm of the Stomach" increased by four and those classified as "Other Malignant Neoplasm" by nine. The number of deaths classified as due to "Malignant Neoplasm of the Lungs and Bronchi", "Breast" and "Uterus", showed no significant change.

The number of deaths from respiratory diseases remained similar in both years.

No death from a motor vehicle accident had been registered in the three years 1950 to 1953 and in 1954, there were two. In 1955, the number rose to five. Three of these deaths were of elderly people knocked down by a motor vehicle, an adult fell from a bus and one young adult fell from a motor cycle.

The number of deaths from "All other Accidents" kept to a similar high level as in 1954. Six were due to accidental falls of elderly people, five being residents in Institutions and one a resident; two to accidental drowning; two to the swallowing of foreign matters (one a Hospital death and one of a resident); one due to a Colliery accident and one to exposure; a total of twelve compared with eleven classified under this heading in 1954.

II—TUBERCULOSIS

A total of seven deaths (6 male and 1 female) from respiratory tuberculosis was registered in 1955. Four of these deaths (all male) were of residents of Institutions and Hospitals in the district. Three deaths of residents of the district (2 male and 1 female, all under forty years of age) were registered during the year, compared with two in 1954 and three in 1953.

No death from the non-pulmonary form of the disease has been registered during the last seven years.

The death rate of residents from respiratory tuberculosis was 0.18 per 1,000 population comparable with the national rate of 0.13 per 1,000 population. The number of deaths of residents in the mental institutions have been purposely excluded, as patients are admitted from all parts of the region.

The total number of primary notifications of Tuberculosis (all forms) was eight (6 pulmonary and 2 non-pulmonary), one of the pulmonary cases being a resident of an Institution. In the previous year, a total of nine cases (6 pulmonary and 3 non-pulmonary) all residents of the district, were notified. There is, therefore, a slight decrease in the number of notifications of residents in both forms of the disease.

Four males and two females were notified as suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis in 1955, whereas in 1954, the preponderance was in female notifications (5 female, one male). The age groups are similar in both years.

During the year, five cases of pulmonary tuberculosis (2 male, 3 female) were inwardly transferred to the district, making a total of thirty-one inward transfers since 1952. In recent years, the number of inward transfers to the district has almost equalled the number of primary notifications each year.

III—GENERAL EPIDEMIOLOGY

The total number of infectious diseases notified during the year was 323 compared with a total of 178 in 1954, and 280, in 1953. The number of cases of **Measles** notified rose sharply to a total of 163 in the year, most of the cases occurring during the months March to June. The cases were scattered throughout the district and were mainly of a mild type, complications were few. Measles tends to become prevalent every second year and the incidence in 1955 followed this pattern. In 1954, fifty-one cases and in 1953, 216 cases were notified.

Notifications of **Whooping Cough** declined considerably to a total of fourteen during the year, from seventy-six cases notified the previous year.

Seven cases of **Scarlet Fever**, all mild, were notified compared with four, in 1954 and notifications of **Pneumonia** dropped to two in the year.

For the eighth year in succession no case of **Diphtheria** was notified.

Two cases of Acute Poliomyelitis were notified, one in August, the other at the end of September. Both, unfortunately, proved fatal.

No case had been notified since the August of the previous year. The first case, a little girl of eleven years, living at Brunton Park, appeared to have contracted the disease while on holiday. She was admitted to the Walkergate Hospital, was in an iron lung for some months and died in the W. J. Sanderson Orthopaedic Hospital on December 15th.

The other case, a young adult, living near Westerhope, had a very acute attack and died a few days later in the Walkergate Hospital.

SONNE DYSENTERY

A considerable outbreak of Sonne Dysentery occurred during the second quarter of the year. Up to the beginning of March, no case had been notified in the rural district, but from then to the end of June, 108 cases occurred chiefly in the Dinnington, Brunswick and Hazlerigg districts, but with isolated cases notified in other parts of the rural district.

The illness was generally of a mild type but several cases had more severe symptoms. It was this mildness of symptoms that enabled the outbreak to gain ground initially as it was afterwards found, on investigation, that the original cases in a household did not seek medical advice for some days or as recovery was rapid, advice was not sought until another case occurred.

The peak of the outbreak was in May when seventy-six notifications were received. On investigation, forty-two positive excretors, *i.e.* persons excreting the organism but having had little or no clinical signs of the disease, were found.

In all, during that month, 357 stool specimens were collected and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination. Of these, 111 were positive for *Shigella Sonne* and 246 were negative.

Careful investigations of notified cases and their family contacts were made and this often led to other cases and positive excretors being found. Close co-operation with the family Doctors, who gave treatment in all cases, was maintained throughout as was also liaison with the School Medical Officers and the Education Welfare Officers.

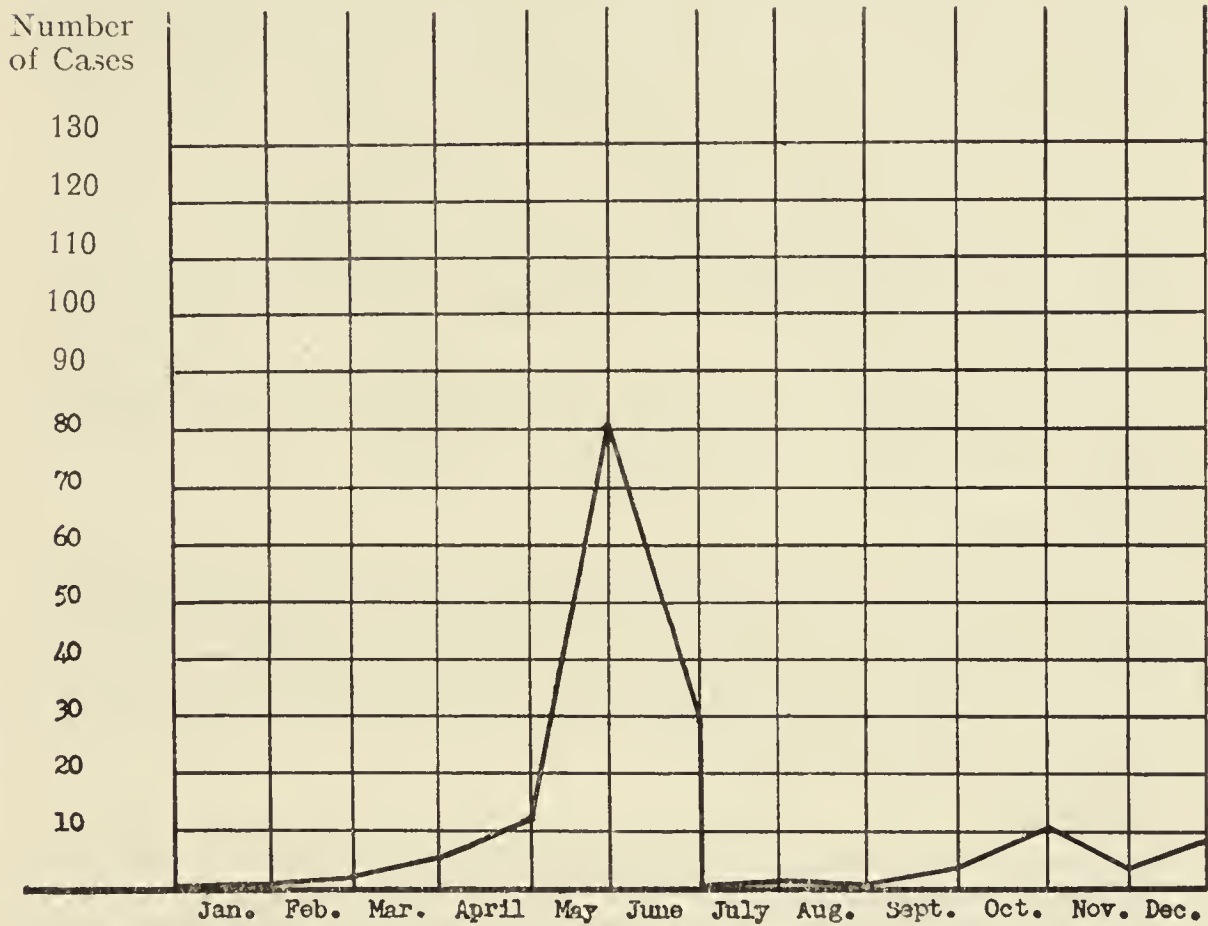
In June twenty-five cases were notified, making a total of 113 cases notified since the beginning of the outbreak. At the end of June, seventy-six notified cases and forty-seven positive excretors had been cleared. The remaining twenty-two notified cases and eighteen positive excretors had further courses of treatment and were kept under surveillance until clear.

A very considerable amount of time in controlling and clearing the outbreak was spent by the staff of the Health Department. 673 stool specimens were collected and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, giving 183 positive and 490 negative results.

During July and August no further case was notified and by the end of August the 113 notified cases and 66 positive excretors had been cleared, nearly 800 stool specimens having been submitted to the Laboratory in the process.

A further twenty-six cases were notified during the next few weeks to the end of the year.

The accompanying rough graph shows the original outbreak and the following secondary and tertiary rises.



FOOD POISONING

During the year eleven cases of food poisoning were notified. Previously, no cases had been notified in 1954 and in 1953. On June 17th, notification was received from the Medical Superintendent of a Children's Sanatorium in the district of an outbreak of suspected Food Poisoning at the Hospital, affecting at that time six patients. Subsequently, four more patients were notified. The ten patients were isolated and a check made of the catering and food handling staff. The result of specimens submitted to the Laboratory was entirely negative for the staff and for nine of the patients, but in one patient coagulase positive staphylococci were found. After a preliminary negative *Shigella Sonnei* were isolated in one patient.

All the patients, though ill for 24 to 36 hours quickly recovered after suitable treatment and all were kept under surveillance until clear. The symptoms suggested a staphylococcal infection.

The investigation of all possible channels did not reveal a specific source of infection.

The other two notified cases were isolated ones in the Ponteland district. One case and positive contact were found to be excreting *Salmonella Typhi-murium*, but in the other case, no pathogenic organisms were found.

A further case of food-poisoning occurred while a family from Brunton Park were on holiday. The patient and two positive family contacts remained under surveillance in this district until clear.

INFLUENZA

In response to a request by the Ministry of Health, the general Practitioners of the district were asked to keep a special watch for any spread of true influenza into the district and several of the Doctors volunteered to act as "Spotters". In two or three suspected cases, nasal swabs were taken and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory at Colindale, but there were no positive findings.

ANTHRAX

Two human contacts of a case of anthrax at a farm in the district, one of whom had a cut on the hand, were kept under surveillance for the necessary period and received injections of penicillin as a precaution from their family doctor.

IV—NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 AMENDMENT ACT, 1951

Burial or Cremation of the Dead - Section 50

No action was necessary under this Section.

Removal to Suitable Premises of Persons in need of Care and Attention - Section 47

Several cases were investigated under this Section but no formal action was necessary, one case being referred to the County Welfare Department for admission to Part III accommodation.

HOUSING

As in previous years the detailed inspection of substandard houses continued. Progress was retarded for about three months by the work and detailed investigations involved in the outbreak of Sonne Dysentery. The figures in the Housing Table show the progress made to date.

It is satisfying to record that a good proportion of substandard houses improved with the assistance of the Housing Acts 1949-52 were dwellings occupied by agricultural workers.

The erection of new dwelling houses, both privately and by the Council, continued to make rapid progress during the year. On figures kindly supplied by the Engineer and Surveyor, no less than 320 houses were erected by private persons, sixty houses were built by the Council. See Table on "Housing", page oo.

AMENDED TABLE, 31st DECEMBER, 1955

(After result of Formal and Informal Action)

Population Registrar General's Estimate	No. of Houses	Categories				
		1	2	3	4	5
16,130	4,732	3,191 69.6%	408 8.6%	898 18.9%	177 3.7%	58 2.4%
				Cat. 4	Cat. 5	
Total number of category 4 and 5 houses at 31st December, 1950				322	424	
No. of houses against which action has been taken 31st December, 1955				145 45.0%	366 86.3%	
No. of houses against which action still has to be taken				177 54.8%	58 13.6%	

Conversions of fifty-six privies to water carriage systems took place during the year.

It will be observed that the number of houses placed in the various categories varies from year to year. As the standard of some houses is raised, this automatically alters their position in relation to the Category.

VI—FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

The detailed work in connection with the above-mentioned Act is supplied in the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector. Regular visits and inspections of the food premises were made and it is pleasing to note that in no case was it necessary to resolve to formal action. Matters of food hygiene were discussed with the staff on the premises. This method of individual education appears to work more satisfactorily in a large rural district than group lectures.

VII—WATER SUPPLY

As reported in the previous four years, the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Order 1950 continued to be implemented. The network of water mains was extended still further in the Western Area of the district. The details of these have been provided by the Engineer and Surveyor, and the position in general regarding water supplies is set out in the Sanitary part of the Report.

VIII—ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

The district as a whole is fortunate in comparison with those adjoining on the East and South boundaries. Atmospheric pollution has to date been confined to the Brunswick Village and Hazlerigg areas. In both instances Colliery Spoil Banks are primarily the main source of the nuisance, and as the investigation in 1954, which was conducted by Peter C. G. Isaac, B.Sc.(ENG.), A.M.I.C.E., King's College Department of Civil Engineering, proved, pollution from spoil banks outside the district was also a contributing factor. The Public Analyst's Report on the contents of a standard gauge sited at Brunswick Village is included in the Chief Sanitary Inspector's Report.

IX—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA

The details under this section have been supplied in the report of Mr. Strachan, Chief Sanitary Inspector.

HEALTH SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT

(a) HOSPITALS UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD

- (i) Birney Hill Convalescent Hospital
- (ii) Ponteland Hospital
- (iii) St. Mary's Hospital, Stannington
- (iv) Thomas Knight Memorial Hospital, Children's Sanatorium, Stannington
- (v) Burnholme, Stannington

Cases of infectious disease requiring in-patient treatment are admitted to the Walkergate Hospital, Newcastle upon Tyne.

(b) LOCAL AUTHORITY HOMES

- (i) Cottage Homes, Ponteland (Newcastle Corporation)
- (ii) Louisville (Children's Home), Ponteland (Northumberland County Council)
- (iii) Mona Taylor Maternity Home, Stannington (Northumberland County Council)
- (iv) Thomas Taylor Homes, Stannington (for aged people) (Northumberland County Council)

TUBERCULOSIS SERVICES

Cases from the rural district mainly attend the Chest Clinic, New Bridge Street, Newcastle, under the Senior Chest Physician.

Institutional treatment is provided in one of the Sanatoria, usually Wooley Sanatorium or Walkergate Hospital, or in the case of children, at the Stannington Children's Sanatorium.

Family contacts are kept under surveillance, especially children at risk. B.C.G. vaccination is given to children as necessary both at clinic and school with the parents' consent.

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL

Services 3, 4 5 and 6 and the care of the buildings under service 2 are administered by the South Area Health Sub-Committee of the North-umberland County Council.

1. DOMICILIARY NURSING AND MIDWIFERY

There are five nurse/midwives practising in the district :

- (1) Nurse Simpson, 4 Cheviot View, Brunswick Village
- (2) Nurse Cockburn, The Bungalow, Dinnington Village
- (3) Nurse Brown, The Green, Ponteland
- (4) Nurse Wright, 26 The Oval, Stamfordham
- (5) Nurse Larney, Nurse's Cottage, Stannington

2. MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

Eight Maternity and Child Welfare Centres are situated in the district one at each of the following places :

Dinnington Village, Brunswick Village, Brunton Park, Hazlerigg, Ponteland, Stamfordham, Stannington Village and Heddton-on-the-Wall.

Sessions are held for babies, children up to five years and for expectant mothers as well as immunisation sessions.

The Centre at Heddton-on-the-Wall commenced on October 12th and sessions are held fortnightly in the afternoon at the Knott Memorial Hall.

3. AMBULANCE SERVICE

The south western part of the district is covered by ambulances of the Throckley and Wideopen Stations and the northern part by ambulances of the Morpeth Station.

The new depot at Wideopen was officially opened by Alderman Hyde, Chairman of the Ambulance Service Sub-Committee on 12th November 1955. The establishment comprises five vehicles (radio-controlled), ten Driver-Attendants under a Driver Supervisor.

Since 1953, control of ambulances by radio has been operative throughout the South Area.

4. IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

Immunisation against Diptheria is carried out at the Maternity and Child Welfare Centres (children 0—5 years), at the schools and by the general Practitioners of the district. At December 31st, 1955, 86 per cent. of the total child population had been immunised at some time during their lives, 66 per cent. of the children 0—4 years, and 98 per cent. of the children 5 to 14 years.

In 1954, 85 per cent. of the total child population had been immunised at some time, 65 per cent. of the children 0—4 years, and 98 per cent. of the children 5 to 14 years. 227 children received a primary course of immunisation during the year and 344 received a reinforcing injection, compared with 257 primary courses in the previous year and 162 reinforcing injections.

The main object of the immunisation campaign remains as before to secure an adequate level of immunisation throughout the child population and more especially in the younger age groups up to four years where the fatality ratio is still high compared with other age groups.

The Immunity Index which shows the number of children in each age group immunised in the last five years, showed an encouraging increase, especially in the younger age groups, *i.e.* in 1955, the Immunity Index was 16 per cent. (children under one year), 82 per cent. (children 1—4 years), 90 per cent. (children 5—14 years), with a total of 81 per cent. (all children under 15 years).

In 1954, the Immunity Index was 9 per cent. (children under one year), 79 per cent. (children 1—4 years), 84 per cent. (5 to 14 years) and 80 per cent. (all children under 15 years).

The aim of every baby being immunised before the first birthday is still the main endeavour in this field.

Whooping Cough Prophylaxis

During the year, a total of 140 children (103 under one year, 33 1—4 years and four 5—14 years), received this prophylaxis either as pertussis vaccine or as combined diphtheria and pertussis immunisation, compared with a total of eighty-four the previous year.

Vaccination against Smallpox

In 1955 there were ninety-five primary vaccinations (79 were children under one year) and twenty re-vaccinations. This was a welcome increase on the previous year when these were sixty primary vaccinations and twelve re-vaccinations.

The numbers of vaccinations are still low, but it is encouraging to note that they are improving.

5. HOME HELP SERVICE

In 1955 a total of seventy-eight patients resident in the rural district received the services of a home help for varying periods. This was a slight decrease on the year before when eighty-one patients received this service.

The cases included 12 (13) confinements, 16 (18) cases of acute illness, 47 (44) aged and infirm people, 2 (2) blind persons and one case of tuberculosis. The figures in brackets indicate the number served in 1954.

6. CARE AND AFTER-CARE

Meetings of the Gosforth and Castle Ward After-Care Sub-Committee were held at two monthly intervals and aid to patients suffering from tuberculosis with milk, clothing, travelling expenses of relatives to Sanatoria, etc., were granted in suitable cases and an effort made to help in difficult circumstances. A close liaison is maintained with the Chest Physician, who, together with the Almoner, advises the Committee on all cases.

7. NURSING CARE COMMITTEES

There are three Nursing Care Committees in the district, Blagdon and Stannington, Ponteland and Stamfordham. The Nursing Care Committee at Dinnington Village has now ceased functioning and the Gosforth and Castle Ward Care and After-Care Sub-Committee look after the needs of that district.

The Nursing Care Committees are voluntary organisations who visit sick people on occasions and supply articles of nursing equipment as required. The South Area Health Sub-Committee supplies larger items if necessary. The district nurse keeps a supply of smaller articles of equipment at her house for loan to suitable cases.

The last few years have seen the growth of other voluntary organisations such as "Over 60 Clubs" and Old Peoples' Voluntary Welfare Committees. In the rural district there are two "Over 60" Clubs, one at Hazlerigg and one at Woolsington and the possibility of providing a branch of the Old Peoples' Welfare Association is contemplated. These excellent voluntary organisations generally include some visiting of the sick and helping in the various problems of the aged.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

PARTICULARS OF DISTRICT :

Area (in acres)	.. .. .	82,846
Registrar General's estimated population	.. .. .	16,130
Number of habitable houses	.. .. .	4,732
Sum represented by penny rate	.. .. .	£530
Rateable value	.. .. .	£136,960

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS :

	Males	Females	Total
Live birth (leg.)	127	117	244
Live births (illeg.)	1	3	4
Still births	1	2	3
Deaths	160	173	342
Birth rate per 1,000 population	.. .. .	.. .. .	16.4
Still births per 1,000 live and still births	.. .. .	.. .. .	12.2
Death Rate	.. .. .	.. .. .	17.89

DEATHS FROM PREGNANCY, CHILDBIRTH, ABORTION Nil

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR :

All infants per 1,000 live births 28.6

DEATH :

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	.. .. .	48
Measles (all ages)	.. .. .	Nil
Whooping Cough (all ages)	.. .. .	Nil
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	.. .. .	Nil

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE CASTLE WARD AREA, 1955

	Males	Females	Total	Institutional Deaths
ALL CAUSES	169	173	342	(135)
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	6	1	7	(4)
2. Tuberculosis, other	—	—	—	—
3. Syphilitic disease	—	—	—	—
4. Diphtheria	—	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—
6. Meningo-coccal infections	—	—	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	—	2	2	—
8. Measles	—	—	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—	—	—
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach ..	9	2	11	—
11. lung, bronchus	4	2	6	(1)
12. breast	—	4	4	(1)
13. uterus	—	3	3	(2)
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	17	7	24	(5)
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	—	—	—
16. Diabetes	—	3	3	—
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	32	58	90	(55)
18. Coronary disease, angina	20	10	30	(2)
19. Hypertension with heart disease ..	5	3	8	—
20. Other heart disease	36	39	75	(38)
21. Other circulatory disease	2	10	12	(6)
22. Influenza	—	—	—	—
23. Pneumonia	4	4	8	(4)
24. Bronchitis	4	2	6	(1)
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	—	—	—	—
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ..	2	—	2	(1)
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ..	1	1	2	(1)
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	—	3	3	—
29. Hyoeerplasia of Prostate	1	—	1	—
30. Pregancy, childbirth, abortion ..	—	—	—	—
31. Congenital Malformations	4	1	5	—
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	13	8	21	(8)
33. Motor vehicle accidents	2	3	5	(2)
34. All other accidents	6	6	12	(4)
35. Suicide	1	1	2	—

(Figures in brackets indicate Hospital deaths)

BIRTH AND DEATH RATES (per 1,000 population)

				Births			Deaths		
				Castle Ward	England & Wales		Castle Ward	England & Wales	
1936	..	..	..	12.9	15.4	....	10.7	12.1	
1937	..	..	..	13.7	15.5	....	9.9	12.4	
1938	..	..	..	15.2	15.7	....	9.3	11.6	
1939	..	..	..	14.2	15.5	....	8.8	12.1	
1940	..	..	..	13.1	15.1	....	8.3	14.3	
1941	..	..	..	13.0	15.7	....	19.0	11.6	
1942	..	..	..	15.9	16.3	....	10.1	11.6	
1943	..	..	..	15.7	17.0	....	9.3	12.1	
1944	..	..	..	17.5	18.1	....	12.6	11.6	
1945	..	..	..	14.9	16.5	....	11.6	11.4	
1946	..	..	..	17.2	19.6	....	10.7	11.5	
1947	..	..	..	14.9	21.0	....	11.5	12.0	
1948	..	..	..	15.4	18.3	....	10.9	10.8	
1949	..	..	..	15.8	16.7	....	10.0	11.7	
1950	..	..	..	15.6	15.8	....	10.47	11.6	
1951	..	..	..	14.2	15.5	....	10.43	12.5	
1952	..	..	..	13.8	15.3	....	17.05	11.3	
1953	..	..	..	13.7	15.5	....	19.9	11.4	
1954	..	..	..	15.5 ⁸	15.2	....	20.02	11.3	
1955	..	..	..	16.4	15.0	....	17.89	11.7	

INFANT MORTALITY RATES

				Castle Ward		England & Wales
1942	..	..	..	30.0	....	49
1943	..	..	..	28.5	....	49
1944	..	..	..	41.8	....	46
1945	..	..	..	50.9	....	46
1946	..	..	..	43.0	....	43
1947	..	..	..	41.0	....	41
1948	..	..	..	26.3	....	34
1949	..	..	..	13.4	....	32
1950	..	..	..	13.4	....	29.8
1951	..	..	..	19.2	....	29.6
1952	..	..	..	55.0	....	27.6
1953	..	..	..	51.3	....	25.5
1954	..	..	..	27.1	....	25.5
1955	..	..	..	28.6	....	24.9

INFANT MORTALITY, 1955

Prematurity	..	..	..	..	..	5 days
Prematurity	..	..	..	..	..	3 hours
Laryngeal obstruction, Micrognathia						2 months
Heart Disease	..	..	..	..	..	1 month
Multiple congenital abnormalities	..					1 day
Congenital Heart Disease	..	..				12 days
Hyperpyrexia, Convulsions, Broncho- pneumonia	..	..	..	..	..	6 months

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

The table on page 17 gives the number and age groups of the cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year.

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY SERVICE

	Positive	Negative
Throat swabs for Diphtheria	—	5
Throat swabs for Haemolytic Streptococci . .	4	7
Specimens of sputum for Tuberculosis	1	16
Gastric aspiration for Inoculation (Tuberculosis)	1	26
Gastric Lavage for Tuberculosis culture	—	1
Urine for pus cells and culture	4	5
Stool specimens for Dysentery	250	833
Stool specimens for other purposes	1	1
Nasal swab for Pertussis	1	1
Vaginal Swab	1	—
Pus from Ulcer	1	—
	264	895
TOTAL		1,159

FOOD POISONING RETURN, 1955

OUTBREAKS DUE TO IDENTIFIED AGENTS :

Total Outbreaks 1	Total Cases 9
-----------------------------	-------------------------

OUTBREAKS DUE TO :

- (a) Chemical Poisons
- (b) Salmonella Organisms
- (c) Staphylococci (Including Toxin)
 - 1 Case coagulase positive Staphylococcus present, other 8 cases negative bacteriological result, but symptoms suggestive of staphylococcal infection.
- (d) Cl. botulinum Nil
- (e) Other bacteria Nil

OUTBREAKS OF UNDISCOVERED CAUSE :

Total Outbreaks Nil	Total Cases Nil
-------------------------------	---------------------------

SINGLE CASES Nil	
Agent identified 2	
(1 M. Salmonella Typhimurium)	
(1 M. Salmonella Typhimurium)	

NUMBER OF DEATHS Nil

FOOD INVOLVED Nil

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE YEARLY RETURN, 1955

DISEASE	0—		1—		3—		5—		10—		15—		25 and Over		Age unknown		Total		Hosp-ital		Deaths	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Scarlet Fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Whooping Cough ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Acute Poliomyelitis ..	3	1	2	3	..	2	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles ..	2	3	18	11	26	15	44	33	5	..	..	1	..	..	1	4	96	67	..	..	2	..
Diphtheria ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Polio Encephalitis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

	0—		5—		15—		45—		65 and Over		Age unknown		Total		Deaths	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Acute Pneumonia ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dysentery ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Smallpox ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Acute Enc. Lethargica ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Paratyphoid ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cerebro Spinal Fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Malaria ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Food Poisoning ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteric and Typhoid Fever..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

DIPHTHERIA NOTIFICATIONS AND DEATHS

					Notifications	Deaths
1934	..	..	..	..	7	Nil
1935	..	..	..	..	13	Nil
1936	..	..	..	..	23	Nil
1937	..	..	..	..	12	1
1938	..	..	..	..	36	Nil
1939	..	..	..	..	34	1
1940	..	..	..	..	18	Nil
1941	..	..	..	..	19	Nil
1942	..	..	..	..	23	4
1943	..	..	..	..	6	Nil
1944	..	..	..	..	9	1
1945	..	..	..	..	8	Nil
1946	..	..	..	..	4	Nil
1947	..	..	..	..	2	Nil
1948	..	..	..	..	Nil	Nil
1949	..	..	..	..	Nil	Nil
1950	..	..	..	..	Nil	Nil
1951	..	..	..	..	Nil	Nil
1952	..	..	..	..	Nil	Nil
1953	..	..	..	..	Nil	Nil
1954	..	..	..	..	Nil	Nil
1955	..	..	..	..	Nil	Nil

TUBERCULOSIS - AGE GROUPS

Age Periods					New cases notified as occurring in the Rural District during 1955			
					Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
					M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1	..	..	..	—	—	—	—	
1—5	..	..	..	—	—	—	1	
5—15	..	..	..	—	—	—	—	
15—25	..	..	..	2	—	—	—	
25—35	..	..	..	1	—	—	1	
35—45	..	..	..	—	1	—	—	
45—55	..	..	..	—	1	—	—	
55—65	..	..	..	1	—	—	—	
65—Over	..	..	..	—	—	—	—	
Age unknown..	..	..	..	—	—	—	—	
					4	2	—	2
					6		2	
					8			

STATEMENT OF CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS 1955

QUARTER ENDED	No. of cases on Register at commencement of Quarter		No. of cases notified for the first time		No. of cases removed from Register		No. of cases remaining	
	Pul-monary	non-Pul-monary	Pul-monary	non-Pul-monary	Pul-monary	non-Pul-monary	Pul-monary	non-Pul-monary
March 31st, 1955								
Males	47	10	1	—	3	1	45	9
Females	55	16	2 (1 I.T.)	—	2	—	55	16
June 30th, 1955 :								
Males	45	9	3 (1 I.T.)	—	1	—	47	9
Females	55	16	3 (2 I.T's)	1	1	1	57	16
September 30th, 1955 :								
Males	47	9	2	—	1	—	48	9
Females	57	16	—	1	—	—	57	17
December 31st, 1955 :								
Males	48	9	2 (1 I.T.)	—	—	—	50	9
Females	57	17	—	1	1	—	56	18

(Figures in brackets indicate Inward Transfers to the district)

Annual Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent - 1955

ROUTINE INSPECTION OF DISTRICT

Progress continues to be made with the detailed inspection of houses, and the results of action both formal and informal are shown on page oo.

The following tables show summaries of sanitary defects and work effected, during the year.

Nuisances dealt with and work required to be done	Verbal or written notice	Complied with
To clear choked drain or W.C.	15	15
To provide ashbins	50	50
To repair sinks or wastepipes	12	12
Defective or leaking roofs, damp walls, walls, etc.	31	28
Defective fireplaces	11	9
„ outbuildings	1	1
„ Manhole covers	6	6
„ water closets	15	15
„ sash cords and window frames	24	24
„ wallplaster	28	24
„ ceilings	14	14
„ foodstores	7	7
„ floors, stairs, handrails	10	10
„ yards and steps	13	13
„ yard walls	25	21
„ eaves, gutters and fallspouts, ...	20	19
„ internal wood benches, doors, etc.	12	12
„ setpots	6	6
„ chimney stacks	14	12
„ water supply pipes	3	3
Offensive accumulations	3	3
Defective external doors	4	4

SUMMARY OF WORK EFFECTED

	By Informal Action	By Statutory Notice	Total
Privies and Privy ashpits abolished	55	1	56
" " " repaired ..	—	—	—
Pail-Closets abolished	—	—	—
Water Closets provided	55	1	56
Number of above for which grant was given	56	—	56
Sanitary bins provided	56	—	56
" " renewed	50	—	50
New Drains constructed	46 new systems		46
Drains repaired or reconstructed ..	15 extns		15
Additional Gullies provided	32		32
Old gullies replaced	9		9
Scullery sinks provided	31		31

Further details of work carried out under this heading are shown in the table "Sanitary Inspector's Report" on page 41.

HOUSING (REPAIRS AND RENTS) ACT, 1954

Apart from the provisions relating to slum clearance, under this Act a house owner is empowered to increase the rent of a rent-controlled dwelling house, subject to the house being in a good state of repair and to his having spent certain sums on its maintenance. Where a landlord has notified his intention of increasing the rent, and the tenant believes the house to be not in good repair, he may apply to the Local Authority for a Certificate of Disrepair, on the issue of which no rent increase is payable until the defects specified in the certificate have been remedied and the certificate revoked.

Thirty-three applications for Certificates of Disrepair were received and after inspection of the houses, all were issued.

FACTORIES ACT

There are sixty-one factories in the district. The following tables show the number of inspections and defects found during the period under review :

Inspections

PREMISES	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspec- tions	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(I) Factories in which Secs. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ..	16	43	—	—
(II) Factories not inclu- ded in (I) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Auth- ority	45	78	—	—
(III) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Outworkers Premises)	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	61	121	—	—

Defects Found

	Number of Cases in which Defects were Found				
	Found	Remedied	Referred		No. of cases Prosecutions instituted
			To H.M.I.	By H.M.I.	
Want of Cleanliness ..	7	7	—	—	—
Overcrowding.. ..	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective Drainage of Floors	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences:					
(a) Insufficient ..	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or Defective	11	11	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for Sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including Offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	18	18	—	—	—

TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, SECTION 269

During the year under review twenty-eight trailer caravans were licensed. All the caravans are of modern design.

There are four caravan sites in the district, three with accommodation for twenty individually licensed caravans, and one where the site itself is licensed. In addition there are other caravans on individual sites in various parts of the district, each separately licensed. These sites have both Council and Town and Country Planning approval.

DISINFECTION OF PREMISES

There have been seventeen dwelling houses disinfected after infectious disease.

VERMINOUS PREMISES

There were four houses treated for vermin and one for an extensive infestation of beetles which involved several disinfestations.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) MILK SUPPLY

Under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, the Local Authority is responsible for the hygienic handling of milk by retailers of whom there are seventeen operating in the district.

Registered Dairymen :

Mr. J. H. Brown, Ivy House, Kenton Bank Foot
 Mr. J. Hudspeth, North Brunton Dairy Farm, Gosforth
 Cramlington and District Co-operative Society Ltd.
 Mr. H. Thompson, "Kenmore", Dinnington Village
 Mr. E. Watson, Tilery Farm, North Gosforth
 Mr. F. H. Rowlinson, Middle Brunton East Farm, Gosforth
 Mr. J. Moorhouse, Newbiggin Hall Farm, Newbiggin, Westerhope
 Mr. J. H. Hopper (Tynedale Bakeries), 413 Chillingham Road,
 Newcastle 6.
 Messrs. W. & J. Pearson, Grey Street, Brunswick Village
 Mr. J. A. Heron, Woodside, Darras Hall
 Newcastle upon Tyne Co-operative Society Ltd.
 Throckley and District Co-operative Society Ltd.
 Stephenson's Dairies (Ponteland Depot), 38 Creighton Avenue,
 Kenton, Newcastle
 Mr. E. D. Coltman, 65 Silver Lonnen, Newcastle upon Tyne 5.
 Messrs. J. T. and R. Graham, Wylam Hills Farm, Wylam
 Mr. R. Henry, Wood End, Brunton Bridge
 Mr. H. J. Farquhar, 10 Queensway, Brunton Park.

Forty-seven samples of milk were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory during the year for the methylene blue test and for the presence of tubercle bacilli. Results are as follows:

34 samples satisfied the methylene blue test

2	samples	decolourised	the	methylene	blue	test	in	4½	hours
3	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	4	"
2	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	3½	"
2	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	2½	"
2	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	2	"
2	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	2	"

The samples submitted for biological examination for the presence of tubercle bacilli all proved negative.

Co-operation is maintained with the County Milk Production Officer to whom methylene blue results of milk samples from Producers and Producer-Retailers are forwarded.

All samples notified as containing tubercle bacilli are immediately reported to the Chief Veterinary Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries for necessary action.

(b) FOOD PREMISES

The following are the types of food premises in the district:

Bakeries	.. .. .	3
Butchers	.. .. .	8
Cafes	.. .. .	5
Canteens	.. .. .	4
Clubs	.. .. .	2
Fried Fish Shops	.. .. .	1
General Dealers (including Grocers and Greengrocers)	.. .. .	31
Public Houses	.. .. .	19
School Kitchens	.. .. .	9

Of the above premises thirty-two are registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, as follows:

Manufacture and Sale of Ice Cream	..	1
Sale of pre-packed Ice Cream	.. ..	22
Manufacture of sausage and preserved meats		8

Food premises are visited regularly as a routine measure and 784 visits were made to these premises. In two cases structural improvements were effected. Five contravention of the Bye-laws with respect to food handling were observed, which were immediately remedied after interview. Informal talks continue to be given to food handlers on the importance of strict hygiene in dealing with food.

(c) DISPOSAL OF CONDEMNED FOOD

1. Meat and Offal—Weekly, or bi-weekly if necessary, collection at slaughterhouses by a firm of Glue and Chemical Manufacturers.

Condemned meat is stained before collection with an indelible dye to prevent any possibility of its subsequent disposal as food for human consumption.

2. Other Foods—Incineration at Council's refuse disposal points.

(d) ICE CREAM (HEAT TREATMENT) REGULATIONS, 1947

Five samples of ice-cream were taken and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination with the following results :

Grade 1	....	3 samples
Grade 2	....	1 „
Grade 4	....	1 „

After interview with the producer of the Grade 4 sample, subsequent samples were taken and these attained Grade 1.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS**Meat Inspection**

The carcasses of all animals slaughtered in the slaughterhouses within the district are examined prior to their removal. A constant vigilance is kept on this section of the work of the Public Health Department as it is of the utmost importance that no meat or offal, unfit for human consumption, should be sold to the public. There is no slaughtering on Sundays, but more often than not, the inspection of carcasses and offal involves working after office hours.

The final report of the Interdepartmental Committee on Slaughter Houses was published in July 1955. It recommended that it was possible to concentrate slaughtering to 700 points throughout the country. It would appear from the Report that one central slaughtering point was recommended to be established to serve the following Authorities:

Newcastle upon Tyne	C.B.	Gosforth	U.D.
Gateshead	C.B.	Hebburn	U.D.
Tynemouth	C.B.	Longbenton	U.D.
Jarrow	B.	Newburn	U.D.
Wallsend	B.	Ryton	U.D.
Whitley Bay	B.	Seaton Valley	U.D.
Blaydon-on-Tyne	U.D.	Stanley	U.D.
Consett	U.D.	Whickham	U.D.
Felling	U.D.	Castle Ward	R.D.

which has a total population of 903,500. I personally feel that this area is too big and that some modification will need to be made before this scheme could be operated. The Report has yet to be considered by the Government.

I have always considered, and as reported in last year's Annual Report, that Ponteland, being a live-stock Mart Centre and provided with railway facilities, is admirably suited for a Central Abattoir which would serve the entire district and surrounding areas.

Regular inspection has been carried out at six slaughterhouses licensed within the district, namely:

1. J. Anderson	North Grange Farm, Ponteland
2. T. Bewick	Diamond Inn, Ponteland
3. W. Wilson	North View, Stamfordham
4. E. Lumley	Brewery Yard, Stamfordham
5. Co-operative Society Butchers	Brunswick Village
6. J. Ball	Brunswick Village

CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	Cattle excl'd Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	857	141	33	2,517	886	—
Number inspected	857	141	33	2,517	886	—
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci						
Whole carcasses condemned ..	5	17	3	29	6	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ..	223	63	—	24	30	—
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	26%	56%	9%	2%	4%	—
Tuberculosis only :						
Whole carcasses condemned ..	7	7	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	14	32	1	—	31	—
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with tuberc- ulosis	2%	27%	3%	—	3%	—
Cysticercosis						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally con- demned	—	—	—	—	—	—

FOOD INSPECTION (Condemnations)

Unsound Food (Tinned Goods)	Surrendered		Legal proceedings
	Tins	lb.	
Fruit	38	33	—
Fish	1	1	—
Meat	9	27 $\frac{3}{4}$	—
Milk	3	—	—
Vegetables	2	2	—
	53	63 $\frac{3}{4}$	

ANTHRAX ORDER, 1938

This order is operated by the County Constabulary and during the year notification was received from them of two cases of Anthrax, which were subsequently confirmed, in animals on farms in the district. The two farms were visited, and human contacts kept under surveillance until the risk of their contracting the disease had passed.

FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE

The major portion of the Stannington area came within the fifteen mile radius of an outbreak of foot and mouth disease which occurred at Annitsford near Dudley. Within that radius the movement of livestock was forbidden.

As a result of this an application was received by the Council from a farmer for the use of part of his premises as an emergency slaughter house, in order to continue a meat contract between himself and a Co-operative Society, as the movement of the slaughtered animal after inspection is unrestricted. On inspection the premises proved to be suitable for the purpose and the Council resolved that permission be granted for their use as an emergency slaughter house.

This continued for a period of three weeks during the months of January and February.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

(a) The sixteen Sewage Disposal Works owned and operated by the Council as at the 31st December, 1955, are as follows:

- (1) Heddon-on-the-Wall
- (2) Stannington (2 works)
- (3) Wallridge
- (4) Darras Hall Estate
- (5) Kirkheaton
- (6) Ponteland (2 works)
- (7) Ridge Estate
- (8) Stamfordham (new works)
- (9) Whalton

- (10) Woolsington
- (11) Capheaton
- (12) Ogle
- (13) Belsay
- (14) Kenton Bank Foot

(b) Pumping Stations discharging to the Sewers of the Longbenton Urban District Council :

- (1) Dinnington East
- (2) Dinnington West

(c) New Sewage Disposal Works and Sewerage Systems

A new Septic Tank has been constructed at Capheaton to replace an old tank of inadequate capacity.

The work on the construction of the new sewerage system and disposal works at Stamfordham was virtually complete by the end of November and the maintenance period commenced on the 1st December, 1955. The Council took over the operation of the works from 21st November, 1955.

On the 7th April, 1955, an active start was made on the constructional work of the Ponteland, Darras Hall and Woolsington Main Drainage Scheme and by the end of the year the Contractors, Messrs. Harbour and General Construction Co., had completed approximately 49 per cent. of the first phase of Contract No. 1. New Foul and Surface Water Sewers had been laid in Runnymede Road, part of Middle Drive, Moor Lane, Eastern Way, Broadway and part of Western Way, Darras Hall, Ponteland. The value of this work was in the region of £76,000.

BRUNTON PARK AND MELTON PARK ESTATES

By the end of the year a total of 522 houses on these two estates were discharging sewage to the Gosforth Urban District Council's Sewerage System at the Three Mile Bridge, with whom an agreement exists for the treatment and disposal of sewage. The above information has been provided by the Engineer and Surveyor, Mr. G. Edgar-Dimmack, M.I.Mun.E.

The sewage from the large Hospitals and Institutions in the district is treated as follows :

1. **St. Mary's Hospital, Stannington**
Tanks and filter beds with revolving distributors.
2. **Children's Sanatorium and Farm Colony, Stannington**
Tanks, filters and revolving distributors.
3. **Cottage Homes, Ponteland**
Tanks and filters with trough distribution.

During the year, in connection with alterations and improvements to existing dwellings and premises, forty-six new drainage systems were installed, of these, twenty were provided with a septic tank in accordance with the memorandum on Principles of Design for Small Domestic Sewage Treatment Works, Ministry of Housing and Local Government, the remaining systems being connected direct to a public sewer. There were also fifteen alterations or extensions. Included in the systems were eighty-eight inspection chambers and 131 branch drains.

RIVERS AND STREAMS

Action has been taken in one case where pollution of a stream occurred. To minimise pollution in another case a scheme is being prepared for the reconstruction of a private sewage disposal works.

PRIVY CONVERSIONS

There have been fifty-six conversions of privies to the water carriage system at the following places:

4 Merton Cottages, Ponteland	1
16 houses, Severs Terrace, Callerton	16
1—6 Morton Crescent, Callerton	6
4 Grey Street, Brunswick Village	1
1—4 Main Road, Heddon-on-the-Wall	4
Joffless, Bridge End, Stamfordham	1
3 Blue Row, Heddon-on-the-Wall	1
Westerheugh Farm Cottage, Stamfordham	1
7 Severs Terrace, Callerton	1
West Mason Farm Cottages	2
White Cottage, Callerton Lane End	1
Camp House (Farm), Whalton	1
2 Cottages, Clifton, Morpeth	2
Hinds Cottage, Heddon Banks, Heddon-on-the-Wall	1
Bonas Hill Farm Cottage, Ogle	1
Nos. 1 and 2 Cottages, South Side, Whalton	2
19 North Side, Stamfordham	1
Blacksmith's Cottage, Saltwick	1
Lane House, Stamfordham	1
Plessey Mill Cottages	2
Moralees Farm House, Ingoe	1
Watch Hill Farm House, Shilvington	1
Cottage at Capheaton	1
No. 1 Cottage, High Callerton	1
Brownlow Bungalow, Kenton Bank Foot.. .. .	1
Streethouses Farm Cottage, Prestwick	1
2 Ridley Cottages, Stannington	1
Two Cottages, Castle View, Ogle	2

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Of these fifty-six conversions, thirty were assisted under the provision of Section 47, Public Health Act, 1936, under which the Council paid not more than half of the reasonable cost of the work. The remaining twenty-six were carried out as part of the improvement of the dwellings under the provisions of the Housing Acts, 1949-52.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The estimated area of the district is calculated to be approximately 130 square miles and is divided into thirteen Parishes. These parishes all receive a refuse collection service.

A septic tank cleansing service also operates free to residents throughout the area consisting of a 6-cwt. portable pump and a 250 gal. sludge trailer. During the year eighty-eight septic tanks were emptied, but the service has been handicapped to some extent due to shortage of labour.

It will be recalled that at the inception of the scheme, two kinds of equipment were considered by the Council, *viz*: first a cess-pool emptying vehicle, and second the portable pump and trailer, the latter being finally decided upon. The existence of this service is becoming more widely known, with a consequent increase in the demand for it by residents. Further, with the continued improvements to dwelling-houses involving the construction of additional septic tanks, it is felt that serious consideration should be given to the question of obtaining the proper cess-pool emptying vehicle. The possession of this vehicle would considerably reduce the man-handling of equipment with a resulting increase in the efficiency of the service.

For the purpose of administration and control, the district is divided into five sectors. One refuse collecting vehicle with chargeman, driver and loader(s) is allocated to each sector. The chargeman is responsible for his Sector and takes instruction direct from the office; there is no general foreman.

In the built-up areas of the district a weekly collection of refuse is made. With the continued development in the Melton Park, Brunton Park and Darras Hall estate, this weekly collection is maintained with difficulty, and a future increase in the size of the Cleansing Service is foreseen. In the remainder of the district the collection is in general every fortnight, although hospitals, institutions and some villages are serviced weekly.

During the year 1955 there have been further wage increases, but again, the sale of salvage has helped towards off-setting this.

CLEANSING COST FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1956

Estimated quantity of refuse removed	.. .. .	8,836 tons
Approximate average weight per house	.. .. .	1.86 tons
Average quantity per house per annum	.. .. .	5.9 cu. yds.
Average per 1,000 population per day (365 days)	.. .. .	30.02 cwts.
Total cost of collection and disposal (refuse & salvage)	.. .. .	£12,362 0 0
Less Income from Salvage and Trade Refuse	.. .. .	£12,362 0 0
		£1,166 0 0
Net Cleansing Cost	.. .. .	£11,196 0 0
Cost per house	.. .. .	£2 7 4
Cost per head population	.. .. .	13 10½
Cost on rates in the £	.. .. .	1 8

VEHICLES

The following are the types and capacities of the refuse collecting vehicles operating in the district :

Thornycroft	1943	9 cub. yds.(Cap.)	side loader (Petrol)
Thornycroft	1948	12	" " " " "
Bantam Karrier	1949	7	" " " " "
Bantam Karrier	1949	7	" " " " "
Bantam Karrier	1950	7	" " " " "
Bantam Karrier	1953	7	" " " " "
S. & D.	1955	16/18	" " For & Aft Tipper (Diesel)

The vehicles are garaged at Ponteland (Jackson Avenue Depot and one in a private garage) and Stamfordham.

The Jackson Avenue Depot, which consists of a Nissen Hut (60 feet by 20 feet) is now totally inadequate for the purpose, one vehicle and trailer having to be left outside with consequent deterioration and it is hoped that the new depot will be erected in the near future.

REFUSE DISPOSAL

Points of disposal in the district are as follows:

1. Brickyard Quarry, Ponteland (rapidly filling up)
2. Shotton Edge (Quarry)
3. Stannington (Quarry)
4. Westerhope
5. Belsay (2 Quarries)
6. Stobhill (Cheeseburn Grange)
7. Whalton
8. Heddon-on-the-Wall
9. Mill Hill

The disposal point at Mill Hill is a deep excavation left after open-cast coal operations, and some 4—5 acres of marsh land west of Brunswick Village. In addition, by agreement with the National Coal Board, disposal is effected by tipping into a disused pit shaft at Mill Hill. This serves the areas of Melton Park, Brunton Park, Brunswick, Hazlerigg and Dinnington.

The Ministry continually urges that a system of controlled tipping be adopted wherever practicable, in order to minimise nuisance, and towards this end the possession of mechanical earth-moving equipment would be an advantage. The wide dispersal of the Council's tips is a limiting factor in the choice of equipment, posing as it does the problem of transporting such equipment between tips, but it is felt that the acquisition of a mule-dozer for tip control would go some way towards meeting the need.

SALVAGE

The sale of salvage continues to be an important factor in reducing the cost to the ratepayers of the Cleansing Service. It is gratifying to report that the amount of waste-paper disposed of during the year was 105 tons, and the total quantity of salvage reached the very satisfactory figure of 121 tons, giving an income of £1,114 os. 6d. This represents an increase on last year of twenty-three tons and £274 14s. 8d. The waste-paper contract with Thames Board Mills terminated on 30th June, and was renewed for a further five years.

					Tons	Cwts	Qts.	Lb.	£	s.	d.
Paper and Cardboard	..				104	19	1	—	929	11	0
Rags	..	..	..	..	2	6	1	—	54	18	0
Scrap Metal	..	..	..		14	12	—	—	129	11	6
Total	..	..			121	17	2	—	£1114	0	6

WATER

The following history of the events leading to the making of the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Order, 1950, are repeated so as to present a coherent picture of developments in the water supply situation.

During the years preceding 1950 the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company supplied water under pressure to the eastern part of the district only. At that time it was considered that approximately two-thirds of the population was served from that source. The remaining part of the district relied on wells and springs and in a number of cases, boreholes.

At a Public Enquiry on 25th October, 1949, the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company applied to the Ministry of Health for an Order to extend their water mains throughout the area of the Rural District. For the purpose of the enquiry, information under the following headings was collected:

- (a) House or Premises
- (b) Category of House
- (c) Occupants
- (d) Number of rooms
- (e) Water supply, baths, etc., Council or Private
- (f) Type of Sanitary Convenience
- (g) Position of Sanitary Convenience
- (h) Remarks, *i.e.* Special Sewage Disposal

Some 275 farms and 1,210 other dwellings were visited. These premises were spread over forty-five parishes, forty-nine samples of water were taken, some for chemical analysis and bacteriological examination and others for bacteriological examination only. The information collected as a result of this survey has proved invaluable to the Council in many ways.

The estimated cost of the scheme, which was designed by Mr. S. G. Barrett, M.I.C.E., Engineer of the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company, was £280,000.

The Ministry of Health approved the application, and an Order known as the "Newcastle and Gateshead Water Order, 1950" became operative on 31st July, 1950. Included in the Order was the construction of two service reservoirs, one situated at Harlow Hill capable of storing 750,000 gallons and the other at Moot Law with a storage capacity of 3000,000 gallons. Pumping units at the Whittle Dene Water Works and at Burnside, Matfen, will raise the water to the respective service reservoirs. All the water so raised will have passed through Bell Bros. Mechanical Filters at Whittle Dene and will have been dosed with ammonia and chlorine.

It is proposed to utilise the existing water supply at Whalton and to extend the water mains to supply the Parishes of Trewick, Shilvington, Ogle, Twizell and Riplington.

The implementation of the scheme which is divided into six phases, commenced on August 1st, 1951.

Mr. G. Edgar-Dimmack, M.I.Mun.E., the Engineer and Surveyor, has kindly supplied the following information in connection with the new scheme.

The position at 31st December, 1954, was as follows:

Phase 1

Extension of existing water main at Stannington Village to Clifton, a branch being taken off to serve the districts of Duddo Hill and Well Hill (includes the Sanatorium). Extension of main at Smallburn, Ponteland, to Thorneyford, a branch is taken from this main at Kirkley South Lodge to Kirkley March.

Phase II

North Moor (Stannington) to Clifton on the main North Road, a branch taken to a point in the vicinity of Dovecote House.

Limestone Lane on the Belsay Road to Milbourne Road End north of Waggon Inn, an extension from Brickyard, Ponteland, terminating for the present near Eastfield Farm House. Extension from Park House to Berwick Hill, and a branch of the Thorneyford main to supply South Carter Moor.

Commencement of installations of pumping units at the Whittle Dene Water Works, and service reservoir at Harlow Hill.

Phase III

Completion of pumping units at the Whittle Dene Water Works and the service reservoir at Harlow Hill. Laying of mains via Dalton, Windy Walls to supply Hawkwell and Stamfordham, and from Harlow Hill to Whitchester to Heddon Whitchester via Loudside Leager House, Dissington Lane House to Callerton Lane End Branch from Eachwick Road End via Penny Hill. Harlow Hill via Dodley, Kiln House to Hawkwell.

Prior to March, 1951, the Council supplied water to the communities of Heddon-on-the-Wall, Kirkheaton, Stamfordham and Whalton. On April 1st, 1951, the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company in pursuance of Part III, Sec. 10, of the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Order, 1950, took over the Council's water works and all pipes connected thereto which supplied the above communities.

Phase IV

This phase of the water supply scheme commenced in January, 1954, and was substantially completed by the end of the year. Mains were laid as follows:

Field House to Dalton Hill Head and South to Dalton Road Ends
 Stamfordham to Heatherslaw
 Heugh to Robsheugh with branch to Huntlaw
 Robsheugh to Milbourne and branch to South East Farm
 Milbourne Village to Belsay with branches from Highlander Inn to
 Worlds End and Middle Newham, and from Red House to
 Ogle Hill Head.
 Redhouse to Whalton via North Trewick.
 Whalton to Ogle, with branches to Ogle Mill and Ogle Castle
 Ogle to Kirkley March.
 Whalton Manor to Shilvington with branches to Cock Hill Farm
 and West Houses.
 Shilvington to Twizell Cottage and Twizell Farm—
 Twizell Cottage to Saltwick.

Whalton Water Supply Tank to Whalton Hill Head.

The Moot Law Reservoir and the Matfen Pumping Station were completed, except for the installation of pumping plant in the latter.

Position as at 31st December, 1955.

Phase V

Approximately 70 per cent. of the main laying work comprised in Phase V was completed by the end of the year. Details of the lengths laid are as follows:

Berwick Hill to Brenkley
 New Horton Grange to Make 'em Rich
 Stamfordham to Fenwick
 Kiln House, Ouston, via Butcher Hill, Matfen and
 Ryal to Mootlaw Reservoir
 Wallhouses and East Wall Houses via Moorhouse
 and Standing Stone to Matfen
 Moorhouse to High House
 Matfen to Dewlaw.

PRIVATELY OWNED WATER SUPPLIES

Since the laying of the Newcastle and Gateshead water mains to Berwick Hill, the private supply has now been discontinued. This also applies in part to the village of Dalton.

1. Belsay

Population : 203 (approximately)
 Total No. of Houses in Parish: 55 (of which 10 are farms)
 Supplies fifty houses (of which 7 are farms and one school)

Two boreholes supply the village, one borehole is situated at Bounder House and the other at Burnside. The water is raised by engine pump, to collecting tanks, and gravitates from this point to supply the village.

2. Capheaton

Population: 100 (approximately)
 Total No. of houses in Parish: 27 (of which 7 are farms)
 Supplies 30 houses (of which 5 are farms)

One spring supplies the village of Capheaton and farm houses in the vicinity. The spring is situated half-a-mile to the west of the village, the water being raised by engine pump to an underground storage tank situated on high ground, and gravitating from this point through cast iron pipes to supply the village.

3. Matfen

Population: 229 (approximately)
 Total No. of houses in Parish: 62 (of which 6 are farms)
 Supplies 33 houses including Matfen Hall and one farm

One well supplies the village of Matfen. The well is situated some 300 yards west of the village, water being raised by windmill and engine pump to an overhead storage tank, and gravitating from this point to supply the village.

4. Ryal

Population: 41 (approximately)

Total No. of Houses in Parish: 11 (of which 5 are farms)

Supplies 6 houses of which one is a farm)

One spring supplies the village of Ryal, being situated some 600 yards south-west of South Farm. The water is raised by hydraulic ram to storage tank at north side of the village, and gravitates through wrought iron piping from this point to supply the village.

5. Stannington

(Part now served by Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company)

Population: 2,616 (approximately)

Total No. of Houses in Parish: 247 (of which 60 are farms)

Supplies: Stannington Vale Farm and eight Estate Houses at
Stannington Vale

Town Farm House

Swan Farm House

Vicarage

School

28 houses in village

One spring supplies the village of Stannington, being situated at Duddo Hill, north-west of the village. The water is raised by pump to a small tank from which it gravitates to the village.

WATER SUPPLIES - CHEMICAL ANALYSIS AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION

During the year eighteen samples were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for Bacteriological Examination.

Date and Premises	Type of Supply	Samples taken from	Number of Coli-form Bacilli Mac-Conkey 2 days 37 deg. C per 100 Ml.
11/5/55			
Coldside Farm, East Matfen	Aqueduct	Aqueduct	50 per 100 ml.
" " "	Aqueduct	Hydraulic Ram	Over 180 per 100 ml.
7 North Road, Ponteland	N/cle and Gateshead	Tap	Nil
2/6/55			
Dinnington Colliery	Cistern at bottom of main pit shaft	Cistern	Nil
" " "	Underground stable	Stable trough	25 per 100 ml.
" " "	Reservoir	Reservoir	50 per 100 ml.
22/7/55			
Ingoe Village	Spring	Cistern tap	3 per 100 ml.
" " "	"	Open pipe	3 per 100 ml.
26/7/55			
Rest Home, W. Heddon	Well	—	50 per 100 ml.
" " "	"	Kitchen tap	6 per 100 ml.
27/9/55			
Bolam Vicarage	Well	—	7 per 100 ml.
" " "	"	Kitchen tap	25 per 100 ml.
Glebe Cottage, Bolam	Spring	Spring	35 per 100 ml.
Riplington Farm	Spring	Kitchen tap	Nil
12/10/55			
Close House Lodge, Wylam	Well	Scullery tap	50 per 100 ml.
29/11/55			
The Tilery, East Matfen	Spring	Spring	Nil
West Moorhouse, East Matfen	Well	Kitchen tap	Nil
The Kennels, Standing Stone	Well	Well	1 per 100 ml.

I am indebted to Mr. S. G. Barrett, Engineer to the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company for the following information:

During the year ended 31st December, 1955, bacteriological analyses were carried out at the Whittle Dene Laboratory on 1,074 samples of

filtered water of which 99.35 per cent. were free of Bact. Coli (Type 1) per 100 ml.

The customary analyses were also carried out by various local authorities supplied by the Company and, of the 316 samples thus examined, 93.8 per cent. were in the "highly satisfactory" and "satisfactory" classifications. The remainder, on being followed up by check samples were similarly classified.

Samples taken from the Kirkheaton supply in February and June proved "highly satisfactory" and one taken in September gave a "satisfactory" result.

Four samples from the Whalton supply, taken in February, March, July and September all gave "highly satisfactory" results.

A "highly satisfactory" classification was also given to samples taken from the Heddon supply in June and September and from the Stamfordham supply in February and June.

Very satisfactory reports were consistently received from Messrs J. and H. S. Pattinson, Consulting Chemists, on the results of their bi-monthly chemical analyses.

During the year the following lengths of mains were laid:

Stannington Parish	1,666	lin. yds. of	4in. dia. pipes
Ponteland Parish	1,460	" "	4in. dia. pipes
Dinnington Parish	3,586	" "	4in. " "
Matfen Parish	8,683	" "	2in. " "
	1,497	" "	3in. " "
	4,162	" "	6in. " "
	7,703	" "	8in. " "
Stamfordham Parish	1,350	" "	3in. " "
	1,190	" "	6in. " "
Whalton Parish	974	" "	2in. " "

A list of premises newly connected during the year is given overleaf:

Premises in the Castle Ward (added limits) which have obtained connections from the Company from 1/1/55 to 31/12/55 inclusive

East Houses Farm, Dalton
 Field House Farm, Dalton
 Kennels, High Seat, Heddon-on-the-Wall
 Mill Farm, Milbourne
 Rose Cottage, Heugh Mill, Stamfordham
 Cottage, The Heugh, Stamfordham
 Dissington Estate Cottages, Dissington
 Coldside Farm, Stamfordham
 Eachwick Moor Farm, Dalton
 Belsay Arcade Garage, Belsay
 Kylo House Farm, Eachwick
 Broomy Hall Farm, Dalton
 Woodside Farm, Dissington
 Middle Duddo Farm, Stannington
 Ogle Castle Farm, Ogle

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

This Act imposes on a Local Authority the duty of keeping their district free from rats and mice, and for this purpose a full-time rodent operator is employed. Dwelling houses are serviced free of charge. In other cases, *i.e.* business premises, farms, etc., a charge is made for the work done, and under this heading the sum of £77 3s. 2d. was recovered during the year.

Methods employed in rodent destruction are those recommended by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and close co-operation is maintained with both the Divisional Rodent Officer of the Ministry and the Rodent Officer of the County Agricultural Committee.

The following Table summarises the work carried out under this Act:

	Type of Property			Total	
	Non-Agricultural				
	Refuse Tips & Sewage Works	Dwell- ing houses	All others (incl. business prem- ises)		
			Agri- cultural		
No. of properties in District. .	28	4,732	231	487	5,478
No. of properties inspected . .	28	157	43	138	366
Total Inspections: (incl re-inspections)	80	242	88	205	615
No. of Properties found to be infested and treated by Local Authority:					
(a) Rats	12	86	8	17	123
(b) Mice	1	28	5	—	34
Total treatments carried out incl. re-treatments	21	123	25	22	191
Number of “Block” Control Schemes carried out . .	—	3	—	—	3

PUBLIC SEWERS

The public sewers throughout the district were serviced as necessary in accordance with the Ministry's recommendations. Treatments were applied and the detailed results forwarded to the Ministry's Infestation Control Division.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

The centre mainly affected continues to be in the area of Hazlerigg and Brunswick Village, due not only to the spoil banks in the villages, but also to spoil banks of collieries in the vicinity outside the boundaries

of this District, as was proved by the special investigation carried out, on the instructions of the Council, by Mr. P. C. G. Isaac, B.Sc. (Eng.), A.M.I.C.E., M.R.San.I., Chartered Civil Engineer.

Action in connection with remedial measures continues to be pursued with the National Coal Board.

HOUSING

New Houses completed during the Year	With State Assistance	Unaided	Total
(a) By Local Authority	60	—	60
(b) By any other Housing Authority	—	—	—
(c) By private persons	—	320	320

Total number of Inhabited Houses in district . . 4,732

1. RURAL HOUSING SURVEY

Category	Classification	Number
1	Satisfactory in all respects	3,187
2	Minor defects	408
3	Requiring repair, structural alteration or improvement	898
4	Appropriate for reconditioning	176
5	Unfit for habitation and beyond repair at reasonable expense	63

2. HOUSING CONSOLIDATED REGULATIONS 1925/32 REGULATION 31

1.	No. of houses unfit for human habitation	63
2.	No. of houses where defects were remedied by informal action	94
3.	No. of representations made to the Council with a view to :	
	(a) serving notices requiring the execution of work	1
	(b) making demolition or closing orders	19
4.	No. of notices served requiring the execution of works	7
5.	No. of houses rendered fit after service of formal notices	1
6.	No. of demolition or closing orders made	2
7.	No. of houses in respect of which an undertaking was accepted under sub-section 3 of Sec. 11 of Housing Act 1936	8
8.	No. of houses demolished	18

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTORS' REPORT - YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1955

	No. of Inspections during year	No. of defects or Contra- ventions of Bye-laws	No. of informal notices served	Defects remedied by informal action	No. of statutory notices served
HOUSING—					
Structural defects	—	235	121	189	5
Defective Food Store	567	19	24	19	—
Dampness	—	28	28	25	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
WATER SUPPLY—					
Insufficient	41	5	5	4	—
Unsatisfactory	—	—	—	—	—
DRAINAGE—					
Insufficient	73	4	4	4	—
Defective	—	27	27	26	—
SAN. CONVENIENCE—					
Insufficient	94	3	3	3	—
Defective	—	18	18	18	—
Food Premises	784	7	—	7	—
Dairies	47	1	—	1	—
Slaughter Houses	515	37	—	37	—
Tents, Vans, etc.	78	7	—	7	—
Offensive Trades	—	—	—	—	—
Factories and Workplaces	121	18	—	18	—
Keeping of Animals	10	2	—	2	—
Insanitary Ashpits and Receptacles	41	15	—	15	—
Offensive accumulations	21	3	3	3	—
Smoke Nuisances	97	2	—	2	—
Total	2,489	431	233	380	5

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS : HOUSING ACT, 1949

	Number of separate houses
(a) Applications submitted to Local Authority during year	31
(b) Applications rejected	—
(c) Applications approved (In addition, 2 were withdrawn and 11 are pending)	31
(d) Total number of applications approved in the area since inception of scheme	200

CONCLUSION

I wish to record my thanks to Mr. J. Taylor, Mr. R. Hardy, Miss D. Bell, Miss J. Elwick and Mr. W. Jobson for their co-operation and the very satisfactory manner in which they have dealt with the work of the Department during the year.

ERIC WM. STRACHAN,

Chief Sanitary Inspector
and Cleansing Superintendent

